

**Coalition of Labor Union Women  
16th Biennial Convention  
Orlando, Florida  
September 7 - 10, 2011**

**BUY AMERICAN - KEEP JOBS IN AMERICA**

If every American spent \$64 a year more on American-made products, we would create 200,000 new jobs. ABC World News "Made in America" reported this in May 2011. According to research, for each manufacturing job created, five more jobs are created to support it. Not only would buying American-made products create jobs, the products would be safer.

U.S. manufacturing processes are much healthier for the environment than manufacturing processes in other countries. Pollution migrates. On some days, 25% of the particulate matter in Los Angeles originates in China. The California economy alone loses about \$28 billion annually due to premature deaths and illnesses linked to ozone and particulates

Many foreign countries have low standards that allow unsafe working conditions. When we support American manufacturers, we also support good working conditions for the American worker and ensure that child labor laws are enforced.

By choosing American-made products, we support a fair day's wage for an honest day's work. Many countries do not have a minimum wage law and workers are exploited. When we purchase goods made in the US, we support the American economy.

The Alliance for American Manufacturing advised that if we participate in a concerted domestic procurement program we, as consumers, have the ability to increase U.S. manufacturing job creation by an astounding 33%! We also ensure that our tax dollars go directly to U.S. job creation.

If America's commerce becomes solely dependent upon service and agricultural endeavors, we allow precious jobs to continue to disappear. Buying American helps to ensure that jobs with fair wages continue to be available to us and to future generations.

Foreign product safety standards are much lower than those in the U.S. By purchasing American goods, we can be assured that consumer protection laws and safety standards will be in place to protect one's self and entire family.

Infrastructure investment is crucial to America's success. A report by Carinsurance.org reveals that over 4,095 dams in America were deemed unsafe by the American Society of Civil Engineers Nearly a third of all highway fatalities are related to sub-standard road conditions, obsolete road designs or roadside hazards. A concerted program of infrastructure investment would save lives and create jobs.

Unfair trade policies and the massive and unsustainable trade deficits that have resulted are a key contributing factor to the job loss, destroyed communities, and falling wages and benefits that American workers face today. Polls show that Americans believe that protecting jobs should be a high national priority and that good paying jobs are more important than cheaper prices.

U.S. trade agreements, such as the U.S. - Jordan Free Trade Agreement, are supposed to

protect basic workers' rights. However, according to recent reports from the AFL-CIO's Solidarity Center and the National Labor Committee, egregious violations of workers' rights are widespread in Jordan today because the labor rights provisions in the agreement have not been enforced by either the Jordanian government or the Bush and Obama administrations.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

The Coalition of Labor Union Women will support efforts by the American Alliance for Manufacturing to keep jobs in the United States and support stringent enforcement of current trade agreements.

CLUW will oppose trade agreements that do not have stringent environmental and labor protections.

CLUW will call on Washington to pass President Obama's jobs bill and the jobs bills endorsed by the AFL-CIO to;

- create more family-supporting manufacturing jobs;
- hold all countries accountable for unfair trade practices;
- establish a national infrastructure bank for investing in transportation, clean energy and infrastructure;
- make investments to boost skills and training opportunities;
- strengthen domestic procurement preferences so companies increasing domestic content will be favored;
- make the tax code friendlier to domestic production and penalize outsourcers;
- reshape the tax code for job creation and domestic investment;
- ensure that any CEO on federal advisory boards or job councils has created net new American jobs over the past five years or is expanding the company's domestic workforce at a faster rate than its foreign workforce.